Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 066275 ORIGIN NEA-04

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:MBERRY APPROVED BY: NEA/PAB:JACOON

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R 151423Z MAR 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC INFO RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8682 AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ANKARA 1892, SENT SECSTATE 13 MAR:

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 1892

FOR NEA/RA AND IO/OIC

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CENTO

SUBJ: CENTO MINISTERIAL

- 1. LOCAL PRESS MARCH 10 REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN WILL REPRESENT TURKEY AT THE CENTO MINISTERIAL. MFA CENTO DESK OFFICER BALKAN CONFIRMED THAT OKCUN WOULD ATTEND BUT THAT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION REMAIN UNDECIDED.
- 2. RELATEDLY, CENTO SECRETARIAT SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR HAS INDICATED THAT HIS FOREIGN MINISTER MAY REFUSE TO ATTEND THE MINISTERIAL UNLESS A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL IS IN PLACE BY THEN. THE PAKISTANI MAY NOT BE SPEAKING FOR HIS GOVERNMMENT AS HE IS KNOWN TO OBJECT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICIPATING IN MEETINGS CHAIRED BY HIS COUNTRYMAN, ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL MAHMUD, WHO HE FEELS IS OF LOWER RANK.

3. MFA HAS NOT YET PROPOSED A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF NEW TURKISH AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL APPOINTMENTS WILL BE MADE AT AN UNSPECIFIED TIME INTHE NEAR FUTURE. WE HOPE THAT THE

POST OF CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL IS AMONG THOSE SLOTS THAT WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION. A HIGH LEVEL MFA SOURCE CONFIRMED RECENTLY THAT CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY GENERAL WERE BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED AND THAT A NAME SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON. SPIERS UNQUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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